

The Prime Minister then proposed the toast of Right Hon'ble Louis S. St. Laurent.

Mr. St. Laurent said in reply:

There are no words to make you realise that I am moved at the honours that have been extended to me by the Prime Minister of this great nation. It is true that I have been looking forward to repay the visit with which the Prime Minister Nehru honoured us three or four years ago. When he came to our country I hope he felt that warmth of our affectionate feelings for himself and for the great people he represented sufficient to offset any climatic conditions that might have tempted him to secure a fur coat in our land. It is moving to be treated in the manner I have been treated in the last few days I have been here and in the next four or five days I will be privileged to be in this great land. Because after all when we come from the other side of the Atlantic and when we look at the vast areas of land and water, we feel Canada is a big country. But when we come to Asia we realise that our population is merely 15 million people and that we are received on a footing of this cordial and friendly equality by the Government of more free men and women than in any other country of the world. It is something which is apt to go to one's head when one finds here that great mass of world's population. One finds here also the evidence of the fact when we celebrate a centenary, even in Canada, we are celebrating a very short portion of that period during which intelligent men and women have produced extraordinary civilisations on this terrestrial globe.

I had a very interesting half an hour with an archaeologist here. He pointed out only a fraction of those things which he is studying so intently for many years and of which he is still, according to his conviction quite uncertain. Nevertheless, he pointed out the witnesses of several empires which have successively had their capitals in this Delhi area and which have succeeded each other and have left traces of techniques. But we of the New World are perhaps a little bit prone to think that we have invented everything. It confirms one in the impression that his own span of activity is relatively short but that the species go on and that even the families go on and that traditions of the past are constantly being added to by the accomplishments of the present day. And we had come with humility to these historic parts. We do realise that we are perhaps somewhat different. But we are apt to remember the two things said or written by Kipling. There was perhaps none of greater truth than what was expressed in this comment: "The colonel's lady and Bridget O'Grady are much the same under the skin".

I do not know if in the generations of the thousands of years in the past they had the fear that grips us, of the prospect of the terrible results of this control we have acquired from time to time over the great forces of nature. Perhaps it was so. It may have appeared to the first discoverers of fire that fire could bring about the destruction of everything and it may be that when we discovered electricity it was realised to what terrible purposes electronics can be put. And there is no doubt that many of us are very terrified at the